

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved setting for gem or synthetic stones for providing a self-centering temporary or permanent set for an inside bezel setting comprising:

a housing for receiving a stone in an inside bezel mounting that includes a cylindrical passage having a smooth surface sized in diameter to receive a stone of substantially the same diameter regardless of its cut or shape;

a spring substantially annular in shape and having a slight opening allowing a certain amount of radial compression of the spring reducing its diameter, said spring being sized to be slightly larger in diameter than the inside diameter of said stone receiving housing passage and having a smooth exterior surface;

said gemstone housing forming a bezel including a narrowed circular passage conical in shape with one end face of the housing passage at the inside end of the housing passage having a diameter smaller than the diameter of the gem or the passage;

a stone including a body portion that is annular and shaped to abut the housing passage narrowed annular area exposing the upper face of the stone from the housing in an inside bezel setting;

said spring being positioned and mounted at a desired location inside said housing passage and engaging said stone to prevent said stone from being removed from said housing.

2. (Original) A gem setting as in claim 1, including:

said gem housing including a pair of countersunk bendable prongs mounted near the bottom perimeter of said housing interior passage and sized to engage a portion of said spring to lock in position and engage said stone inside said setting.

3. (Original) An improved stone setting as in claim 1 wherein:

said stone can be round, oval, or pear shaped, either faceted or cabochon and is either a gem or a synthetic stone.

4. (Currently Amended) An improved article of jewelry that includes a jewelry stone and an article of jewelry having a metal housing for providing an inside bezel setting comprising:

jewelry housing means for housing a stone that includes ~~an~~ a smooth interior passage;

means for retaining said stone in said smooth passage that includes an insertable spring having a smooth exterior surface that can be mounted at a desired depth, said depth being determined to accommodate the different crown-pavilion angles that change with different stones in said passage using the compression resilience of said spring and engaged against the stone for holding the stone in the passage;

means of said passage for preventing said stone from passing all the way through said passage exposing the top surface of the stone; and

means for fastening said spring in said housing to prevent the removal of said spring.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of creating an inside bezel mounting in an article of jewelry for use with either gem or synthetic stones comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting an article of jewelry and providing a generally smooth cylindrical passage through a portion of said gem housing;
- (b) creating a restricted annular area smaller than the gem size to be inserted at one end of said gem stone housing in conjunction in forming a part of the passage through said gem housing;
- (c) inserting a gem stone from the bottom up into said gem stone housing;
- (d) inserting a compression spring at a desired location in said gem housing passage having a smooth exterior surface and a diameter slightly larger than the interior of the cavity to provide a seat and or stop for the pavilion of the stone;
- (e) bending the countersunk prongs toward the center of the cavity over the spring to ~~prevent said spring from coming out of the mounting thus completing the setting~~ a depth where the countersunk prongs contact the spring that in turn is in contact with the said stone, respective of the total crown to bottom of the spring distance.